

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX,UN, UR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY OF CND

REF: STATE 198161; 218894

GENEVA FOR B. GOUGH

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA FROM VANCE

1. DR. CASTRO Y CASTRO HAS WRITTEN VANCE REPEATING
ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF CND CANDIDACY FOR MEXICO. HIS
LETTER REVEALS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FROM HIS EARLIER
MESSAGES. WE PREFER THAT YOU REITERATE TO DR. CASTRO Y
CASTRO OUR PRESENT POSITION (STATE 218894) AND DISCUSS
WITH HIM PROGRESS MADE IN CLARIFYING SOVIET POSITION. WE
DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR UNSYMPATHETIC WITH HIS EFFORT IN
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BEHALF OF OJEDA PAULLADA AND BELIEVE YOUR TALK WITH HIM

WOULD BE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO REPLY TO HIS LETTER. WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE EMBASSY CONTINUE TO BE THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES CONCERNING THE CND CANDIDACY.

2. THE MESSAGE FROM DR. CASTRO Y CASTRO DATED AUGUST 28, 1975, FOLLOWS (DEPARTMENT TRANSLATION):

QUOTE: DEAR AMBASSADOR VANCE: I APPRECIATE FOR ITS TRUE WORTH YOUR LETTER DATED AUGUST 20 OF THIS YEAR WHICH I RECEIVED THROUGH AMBASSADOR JOVA, PARTICULARLY YOUR EXPRESSIONS CONCERNING ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA AND YOUR RECOGNITION OF HIS TIRELESS DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF ELIMINATING OR AT LEAST DRASTICALLY CUTTING DOWN ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS.

I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WELL TO CLARIFY THE ACTUAL SITUATION FOR YOU SO THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ARGUMENTS I AM ABOUT TO ADDUCE, YOU MIGHT RECONSIDER YOUR VIEWS REGARDING WHAT YOU HAVE CALLED "THE RIGID RULES RELATING TO SUCCESSION TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND TO THE OTHER OFFICES."

IN THE FIRST PLACE THE TRADITIONAL RULES OF THE COMMISSION REGARDING OFFICES ON THE BUREAU WERE NOT RESPECTED AT THE LAST SESSION, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE ELECTIONS OF THE FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN, DR. E. BABAIA, AND OF THE SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR BROR REXED, WERE CONCERNED, INASMUCH AS NEITHER OF THEM HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD THE NEXT OFFICE DOWN IN RANK.

SECONDLY, SINCE JUAN BARONA LOBATO, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MEXICAN DELEGATION, AND AN OFFICIAL WHO HAS MORE THAN 13 YEARS' EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND IN THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCES, DID PARTICIPATE IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, HE COULD HAVE HELD THE OFFICE OF FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN. FURTHERMORE, HE EXPRESSED THIS DESIRE IN GOOD TIME BOTH TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND TO SOME OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPRESENTATIVES, TO THE LATTER IN A DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH WAS CIRCULATED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO IN GENEVA TO THE DELEGATIONS OF SOME OF THE STATES WHICH HAVE MISSIONS IN THAT CITY.

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THIRDLY, AS ALREADY INDICATED IN A DIPLOMATIC NOTE, THE HEAD OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION --MYSELF-- HELD THE OFFICE OF RAPPOREUR IN 1973 AND OF SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN IN 1974.

THE FACT THAT I SUFFERED A REGRETTABLE ACCIDENT WHICH FORCED ME TO UNDERGO SURGERY AND REMAIN HOSPITALIZED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS CANNOT MEAN THAT MEXICO MUST LOSE ITS TURN FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION. FOR THE LAST 23 YEARS, NO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, INCLUDING MEXICO, HAS HELD THE OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION. FOLLOWING MY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO OUR COUNTRY, THE COUNSELOR OF THAT EMBASSY,

MR. VICTOR A. KROPOTOV, INFORMED ME ON AUGUST 4 THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUPPORTING THE CANDIDACY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA AND TO VOTING FOR HIM IF THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION'S MEMBERS ARE NOT OPPOSED; HOWEVER, HE STIPULATED THE CONDITION THAT THE USSR'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, DR. BABAIAN, BE RE-ELECTED FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE SAME SESSION, A CONDITION WHICH WE ARE PLEASED TO ACCEPT.

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION, I HAVE SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTES TO MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, INFORMING THEM OF THIS BACKGROUND AND ASKING THEM TO RE-ELECT THE FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN, THE SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN, AND THE RAPPORTEUR, IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID ANY CONFLICT AND TO NORMALIZE THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION WHICH AROSE DURING THE LAST SESSION. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD ALSO ESTABLISH A HEALTHY PRECEDENT ACCORDING TO WHICH WHEN IT IS THE TURN OF ANY OF THE STATES REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION TO OCCUPY THE CHAIRMANSHIP, THAT STATE MAY SELECT AS HEAD OF DELEGATION FOR THAT SESSION EITHER THE REGULAR REPRESENTATIVE OR ELSE ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL WHO HAS THE PERSONAL CAPACITY AND THE ABILITIES FULLY QUALIFYING HIM TO LEAD THE DEBATES AND TO MAKE THAT PARTICULAR SESSION AN OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDING ONE.

ALREADY FULLY AWARE OF YOUR ESTEEM FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA AND THE SUCCESS HE HAS BEEN HAVING IN HIS ARDUOUS TASK OF FIGHTING AGAINST GANGS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS, AND WITH FULL CONFIDENCE TO THE ARGUMENTS I HAVE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS MATTER, I AWAIT YOUR REPLY.

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND TO EXTEND TO YOU MY CORDIAL GREETINGS. (SIGNATURE) AMBASSADOR FERNANDO CASTRO Y CASTRO. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: CASTRO'S ARGUMENT IN HIS THIRD PARA THAT TRADITIONAL RULES WERE NOT FOLLOWED AT LAST MEETING IN

ELECTIONS OF BABAIAN AND REXED IS INACCURATE. ALL POSITIONS HELD ARE AD PERSONAM. CASTRO AND THE HUNGARIAN DID NOT APPEAR AND HENCE THERE WERE VACANCIES FREE FOR FILLING AS STEERING COMMITTEE WISHED RECOMMEND.

4. RE BARONA LOBATO, VANCE PROPOSED TO STEERING COMMITTEE HE BE ELECTED IN LIEU OF CASTRO BUT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE REFUSED REFERRING TO AD PERSONAM RULE' FYI: SEVERAL ADDED THAT HE LACKED DESIRABLE STATURE.

5. FINALLY, CASTRO'S REPORT HERE OF SOVIET POSITION IS CLOSER BUT STILL NOT RPT NOT WHAT IS NEEDED, WHICH IS COMMITMENT BY SOVIETS TO PROPOSE TO STEERING COMMITTEE WHAT GOM WISHES. KISSINGER

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